

Fashion

Hip-hop world dumps gold teeth for Harry Winston

Mary J. Blige

OUT



IN



Jay-Z

OUT



IN



OUT



IN



Rap of luxury

By FARRAH WEINSTEIN

KANGOL hats and Adidas shell-toe sneakers will always be staples, but big baggy pants and gold teeth have been shoved to the back of the well-dressed rapper's closet.

The hot items now making the rounds are far more luxe, thanks to high-end designers incorporating hip-hop style into their collections.

These days, artists like P. Diddy, Lauryn Hill, Mary J. Blige and Jay-Z are shopping at Dolce & Gabbana instead of Moschino and flashing cash at Manolo Blahnik before they hit the stage.

Manolo Blahnik's \$90 Timberland boots — along with Christian Dior cargo pants, \$900 Henry Dauter bags, Juicy Couture track suits and diamonds from Jacob the Jeweler — are filling musicians' wardrobes faster than you can say "bling bling."

"These artists love to be dramatic and extravagant," says celebrity stylist Danna Weiss.

"From shoes to bags to fur vests to diamonds, gangster glamour is

the highest level of fashion right now. If you're buying a diamond, it has to be the size of a cassette player."

When hip-hop first began rock in the '80s, groups like Run-DMC didn't flash the cash like Ja Rule and his posse do today.

"We didn't have a lot of money," explained Popmaster Fabel on MTV's "Direct Effect Presents: Fashionably Loud," a new MTV special.

"We would just get creative and inventive with whatever we had."

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"designers have raised there's a lot of money and these artists have the highest level of fashion right now. If you're buying a diamond, it has to be the size of a cassette player."

Another style must: getting your hair done by exclusive hairstylists.

You've got to know someone to get an appointment with top hairstylists like Porsche and CAUTION, who "work out of their crib," says MTV VJ La La, who gets her curly locks styled by them at least once a week.

But the ultimate sign of ghetto glamour? Your own fashion line, of course.

Joining the ranks of Sean John, JLo, Jay-Z, Kimora Lee and Russell Simmons, Eve will soon be launching a "sexy, but not vulgar" line for women.

"It will be like my style, but more casual," the platinum-blond singer told The Post.

"For years, we have been setting the trends for the rappers," said Fat Joe, who also has his own line of hip-hop wear, called FJS60.

"I said, 'Yo, let's capitalize on that.'



YANNICK BHABHA

IN

Luxe glamour



OUT
Schoolyard style

Photos of TLC, Mary J. Blige (top left), P. Diddy with Missy and a gold-toothed Jay-Z by Enrica Puccio, courtesy of the book "Who Shot Ya?" edited by Kevin Powell.